Updates and Policy Changes from OEL regarding COVID-19

On Friday, March 27, 2020, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) shared additional information about their response and policy changes due to COVID-19. Below you will find the most recent updates.

- Closures are being entered into the OEL system by ELCHC Contract Specialist. **Do not change your Closure Calendar or VPK Calendar** due to COVID-19 as this will cause issues with your attendance roster.
- Providers should not begin attendance until March 30th, 2020. We strongly recommend joining us for the webinar prior to starting your attendance, if possible.
  To register for the Attendance Guidance Webinar on Mar 31, 2020 1:00 PM EDT click here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3922949042100114701 to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**School Readiness (SR):**
- Parent co-payments are waived effective April 1, 2020. This means, the entire approved SR rate will be paid by the ELCHC.
- No SR families will be terminated at this time. This includes those that are up for redetermination or families that have had a job change due to COVID-19. Redetermination dates have been extended for 60 days.
- Child absences due to coronavirus concerns should be marked as “absence due to disaster” which will appear as a D in your attendance roster. You do will not have to enter a comment or a supporting document.
- Closure days will show as asterisk (*) on your SR attendance roster. If this is incorrectly marked, please contact your Contract Specialist.
- Providers should select full-time (FT) on the attendance roster for school-age children who are currently attending your SR Program full-time.
- ASQ requirements have been temporarily suspended; however, we recommend that providers who are open continue to screen children and enter the results into the ELCHC Portal. This is a best practice since ASQs are the first step to getting children early intervention services as needed.
VPK:

- Child absences due to COVID-19 concerns should be marked as usual by marking “A“ for each day the child was absent. These absences will be paid and there will be no 80/20 deductions during the month of March for school-year classes.
- Usually, if a child is absent several days before they are terminated from your program, you cannot be paid for those absences. This has been waived for the month of March and providers will get paid for these absences.
- OEL will provide more guidance at a later date on how absences will be paid for April.
- Closure days will show as asterisk (*) on your VPK attendance roster. If this is incorrectly marked, please contact your Contract Specialist.
- VPK Assessment (AP3) requirements have been temporarily suspended; however, we recommend that providers who are offering VPK continue to conduct AP3s for children who are present as a best practice.
- There will be no Readiness Rates for 2019-2020.